

Special Olympics plays an important role in the lives of many of the mentally challenged throughout the world, including my home state of Minnesota. Since the start of Special Olympics, the organization has grown to include more than 1.7 million athletes worldwide, with 3,300 in Minnesota.

Special Olympians compete in a variety of events at all skill levels. Competitions in events such as basketball, golf, figure skating, and gymnastics enhance the lives of all participants and the families who root for them from the stands. These athletes start training as early as age six, with some participants in Minnesota competing into their sixties. Special Olympics athletes can compete in as many events as they choose.

Not only does Special Olympics hold annual competitions, but the organization helps participants train year round for their events. This encourages Special Olympic participants to develop physical fitness and generally helps improve their quality of life.

The Special Olympics would not be possible without the devoted volunteers who lend their time and effort to this worthwhile cause. There are over 1,700 volunteers in Minnesota who serve as coaches, officials, teachers, and in other capacities. I want to thank all who take time out of their schedule to volunteer through Special Olympics.

Mr. President, it is an honor to be able to recognize the accomplishments of the Minnesotans involved in Special Olympics. This organization deserves recognition for all they do and the positive impact they have on the lives of our Special Olympians.●

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH STAMP

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to submit for the RECORD letters from two young children in support of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp. These children, Brendon Fisher, age 6 and a half, and Paige Fisher, age 8 and a half, are the nephew and niece of Betsy Mullen, Chairperson of the Women's Information Network—Against Breast Cancer. These letters eloquently state why it is so important to continue this program.

The letters follow.

JULY 16, 2000.

Dear Congress, I think it's very important to keep the stamp because if we don't every girl is going to worry about it or maybe get breast cancer. But if we keep it we will get money to cure to stop it. My Aunt Betsey risked her life on it and I'm proud of her. If you think about it no one likes it because you can die from it. I think, and a lot of other people agree with me, that it would be best to keep the stamp and then things will go perfect. Hope my letter makes a difference because not just me is counting on this.

By Paige Fisher, 8½ years old.

Dear Congress, girls and boys can get breast cancer and I don't want girls and boys and the president and his wife, cat and dog to get sick. Keep the stamp going.

From Brendon Fisher.●

THE DEATH OF TOM MALONEY

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the passing of Tom Maloney.

Tom was the former mayor of Wilmington—Delaware's largest city.

I am deeply saddened by the death of my friend, Tom. I talked to Tom just last week. During his long battle with cancer, his spirit remained unbroken. To the very end, Tom was full of life and bullish on the future.

Tom was a loving husband and father, as well as a committed public servant. His care and concern for the residents of his city of Wilmington, and for the people of Delaware, were unmatched. As mayor, Tom led the effort to bring more people, more jobs, and more development to Wilmington. In many ways, Tom was the originator of the downtown renaissance that continues today.

Tom was my opponent in the 1976 race for the U.S. Senate. He was a worthy adversary, but an even better friend. In that unique Delaware tradition of Return Day, Tom and I "buried the hatchet" and forged a friendship that flourished for the next 25 years. Tom and I continued to work together on projects and issues important to Wilmington and to all Delawareans. The people of the First State owe Tom Maloney a debt of thanks for all he has done.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Linda, and the rest of the Maloney family.●

NECESSARILY ABSENT

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, due to important family obligations, I was necessarily absent this evening during votes on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill for fiscal year 2001.

Mr. President, were I present, I would have voted for Senator WELLSTONE's amendment, number 3919.

Further, were I present, I would have voted for Senator SPECTER's amendment, number 3958. I am a cosponsor of the amendment. It corrects an inadvertent error in the 1997 Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 that prevents Amtrak from leasing automobiles from the General Services Administration. The amendment will enable Amtrak to continue leasing such vehicles until 2003.

Further, were I present, I would have voted to find Senator DURBIN's amendment, number 3980, germane. I am a cosponsor of the amendment. The Agriculture Appropriation bill includes a rider that would block efforts to reform the hardrock mining industry, which has caused and continues to cause substantial environmental damage to public lands. Senator DURBIN's amendment would have allowed needed reforms to proceed. I have submitted

an additional statement on this issue into the RECORD.

Finally, were I present, I would have voted for final passage of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill for fiscal year 2001.●

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator REID for requesting a leave of absence for me for the duration of this week. I am traveling home today to attend and speak at tomorrow's memorial service for Mr. Bernie Whitebear, of Seattle, Washington, who passed away at the age of 62 on Sunday, July 16, 2000.

Earlier in the week, I did have a statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD about Bernie Whitebear and his many contributions to Washington state. He was a special man to my constituents. He was a special man to me. Bernie helped me understand Native American cultures from the inside as a participant not as someone sitting on the sidelines. On many occasions, Bernie exposed me to the sense of community and respect that he was always so proud of. Washington state will miss this great man and clearly, it is appropriate for me to be with my constituents tomorrow to celebrate Bernie Whitebear.

I thank my colleagues for their consideration and courtesies and I will have a longer statement next week to discuss Senate floor votes.●

HONORING JOSEPH M. GATT

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a distinguished citizen of Nevada, Joseph M. Gatt. Mr. Gatt's vision and innovation paved the way for millions of Americans to be able to secure a comfortable retirement. Nearly twenty-five years ago, he was instrumental in developing the prototype that was used for what ultimately became the 401(k) pension program.

Mr. Gatt has been a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada for almost forty years and was a pioneer in the field of financial planning. He worked as the Las Vegas agent for the Hartford Insurance Company when he initiated the new pension program for the benefits of the employees of the then MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The key to the program was the utilization of an existing IRA program on a joint funding basis; that is, with contributions from both the employer and the employees, which had never been done before. The incentive to the employee to contribute to the program was, of course, that the contribution was tax deductible. The Hartford program was so unique that it was necessary for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to approve it. On August 25, 1976, the IRS gave final approval for the Hartford program, and it went into effect immediately. Features of this pension plan included portability, 100 percent vesting whether or not the employees remained at MGM Grand, and